

References

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TWO INTERESTING TEPHRITIDAE (DIPT.) ON A S. E. LONDON COMMON. – Of these attractive flies (long known as Trypetidae until lately, when, alas! the perennial craze for name-changing spread to affect also the higher taxa) several local and rather rare species occur in my area, besides all the commoner ones – the former already recorded in scattered notes. During the past and present seasons I was pleased to come across two further species of that class on Woolwich Common close by here. The first, *Orellia falcata* Scop., one of our larger and more conspicuous species, turned up there on 12.vii.80 – three ♀♀ of which two had a large semicircular 'bite' out of the apical margin of each wing. Both sexes occurred there sparingly in late May and early June of the next (present) year. The foodplant, *Tragopogon pratensis*, grows patchily and sparsely on the common; I have not noticed it elsewhere in the district. *O. falcata* is by no means a common insect in suburban Kent. Niblett (1956, *The Flies of the London Area*, 3: Trypetidae (*Lond. Nat. Reprint* 101): 84, under *Trypeta*) lists only three localities there – Abbey Wood Marshes, Eltham, Erith Marshes – as compared with a long series of Surrey ones. The present locality is nearest the second of these.

The other species is *Dithryca guttularis* Mg., for which the above work gives (under the emendation *Ditricha*) four Surrey localities more or less on the fringe of the Society's area and none at all in Kent, London, or Middlesex. (I recorded the species from Box Hill, Surrey, in 1962, *Ent. Rec.*, 74: 244.) This apparent rarity clearly has nothing to do with foodplants, since *Achillea millefolium*, the host of *D. guttularis*, is general and abundant. I was surprised, therefore, to meet with the fly in some numbers in an extremely restricted spot on the edge of a large patch of yarrow in a corner of the common, on 27.vii.81. Though the entire patch was swept in detail, the Tephritid seemed absent from the dense central mass, occurring only on some half-dozen more thinly-spaced plants at one side of it. All the six taken proved to be males, suggesting that the flies had only just begun to emerge; females can be expected to appear a little later. – A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE3 8QG.